

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for viewing at least one of a plurality of documents in
2 a non-directed arrangement in a computer system that includes a user input device
3 coupled to a processor, a display and a memory, said method comprising the steps:
4 fetching into memory documents associated by at least one of a plurality
5 of links to a first current document, forming a first plurality of pre-fetched documents;
6 displaying said first current document in a first display area on said
7 display;
8 displaying a representation of content of at least one of said plurality of
9 pre-fetched documents in a second display area on the display in response to a first
10 signal from the user input device;
11 selecting a second current document from said plurality of pre-fetched
12 documents in response to a second signal from the user input device;
13 displaying said second current document in said first display area of the
14 display;
15 displaying a representation of content of said first current document in a
16 third area on the display;
17 fetching into memory documents associated by at least one of a plurality
18 of links to said second current document, forming a second plurality of pre-fetched
19 documents;
20 displaying a representation of content of at least one of said second
21 plurality of pre-fetched documents in said second display area on the display in
22 response to a third signal from the user input device; and
23 repeatedly performing the above as the user browses documents in said
24 plurality of documents.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said representation of content is
2 a thumb nail image of the document.

1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein said thumb nail image further
2 includes highlighting of concepts of interest to the user contained within the document.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of documents in a
2 non-directed arrangement comprises pages of the World Wide Web.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of documents
2 includes Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML) documents.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of documents
2 includes documents produced by a word processing program.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of links comprises
2 at least one Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

1 8. A method for viewing at least one of a plurality of documents in
2 a non-directed arrangement in a computer system that includes a user input device
3 coupled to a processor, a display and a memory, said method comprising:
4 fetching into memory documents associated by at least one of a plurality
5 of links to a first current document, forming a first plurality of pre-fetched documents;
6 displaying said first current document in a first display area on said
7 display;
8 displaying a representation of content of at least one of said plurality of
9 pre-fetched documents in a second display area on the display in response to a first
10 signal from the user input device;
11 selecting a second current document from said plurality of pre-fetched
12 documents in response to a second signal from the user input device;
13 displaying said second current document in said first display area of the
14 display;
15 fetching into memory documents associated by at least one of a plurality
16 of links to said second current document, forming a second plurality of pre-fetched
17 documents;
18 displaying a representation of content of at least one of said second
19 plurality of pre-fetched documents in said second display area on the display in
20 response to a third signal from the user input device; and
21 repeatedly performing the above as the user browses documents in said
22 plurality of documents in a non-directed arrangement.

1 9. A computer program product for viewing at least one of a
2 plurality of documents in a non-directed arrangement in a computer system that

3 includes a user input device coupled to a processor, a display and a memory, said
4 computer program product comprising:
5 code for fetching into memory documents associated by at least one of a
6 plurality of links to a first current document, forming a first plurality of pre-fetched
7 documents;
8 code for displaying said first current document in a first display area on
9 said display;
10 code for displaying a representation of content of at least one of said
11 plurality of pre-fetched documents in a second display area on the display in response
12 to a first signal from the user input device;
13 code for selecting a second current document from said plurality of pre-
14 fetched documents in response to a second signal from the user input device;
15 code for displaying said second current document in said first display
16 area of the display;
17 code for displaying a representation of content of said first current
18 document in a third area on the display;
19 code for fetching into memory documents associated by at least one of a
20 plurality of links to said second current document, forming a second plurality of pre-
21 fetched documents;
22 code for displaying a representation of content of at least one of said
23 second plurality of pre-fetched documents in said second display area on the display in
24 response to a third signal from the user input device;
25 code for repeatedly invoking the above codes as the user browses
26 documents in said plurality of documents in a non-directed arrangement; and
27 a computer readable storage medium for holding said codes.

1 10. The computer program product of claim 9 wherein said
2 representation of content is a thumb nail image of the document.

1 11. The computer program product of claim 9 wherein said thumb
2 nail image further includes highlighting of concepts of interest to the user contained
3 within the document.

1 12. The computer program product of claim 9 wherein said plurality
2 of documents in a non-directed arrangement comprises pages of the World Wide Web.

1 13. The computer program product of claim 9 wherein said plurality
2 of documents includes Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML) documents.

1 14. The computer program product of claim 9 wherein said plurality
2 of documents includes documents produced by a word processing program.

1 15. The computer program product of claim 9 wherein said plurality
2 of links comprises at least one Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

1 16. A computer program product for viewing at least one of a
2 plurality of documents in a non-directed arrangement in a computer system that
3 includes a user input device coupled to a processor, a display and a memory, said
4 computer program product comprising:
5 code for fetching into memory documents associated by at least one of a
6 plurality of links to a first current document, forming a first plurality of pre-fetched
7 documents;
8 code for displaying said first current document in a first display area on
9 said display;
10 code for displaying a representation of content of at least one of said
11 plurality of pre-fetched documents in a second display area on the display in response
12 to a first signal from the user input device;
13 code for selecting a second current document from said plurality of pre-
14 fetched documents in response to a second signal from the user input device;
15 code for displaying said second current document in said first display
16 area of the display;
17 code for fetching into memory documents associated by at least one of a
18 plurality of links to said second current document, forming a second plurality of pre-
19 fetched documents;
20 code for displaying a representation of content of at least one of said
21 second plurality of pre-fetched documents in said second display area on the display in
22 response to a third signal from the user input device;
23 code for repeatedly invoking the above codes as the user browses
24 documents in said plurality of documents in a non-directed arrangement; and
25 a computer readable storage medium for holding said codes.

1 17. An apparatus for viewing at least one of a plurality of documents
2 in a non-directed arrangement comprising:
3 a memory,
4 a user input device;
5 a display; and
6 a processor operatively disposed to:
7 fetch into memory documents associated by a plurality of links to a first
8 current document, to form a first plurality of pre-fetched documents;
9 display said first current document in a first display area on said display;
10 display a representation of content of at least one of said plurality of pre-
11 fetched documents in a second display area on the display in response to a first signal
12 from the user input device;
13 select a second current document from said plurality of pre-fetched
14 documents in response to a second signal from the user input device;
15 display said second current document in said first display area of the
16 display;
17 display a representation of content of said first current document in a
18 third area on the display;
19 fetch into memory documents associated by at least one of a plurality of
20 links to said second current document, forming a second plurality of pre-fetched
21 documents;
22 display a representation of content of at least one of said second plurality
23 of pre-fetched documents in said second display area on the display in response to a
24 third signal from the user input device; and
25 repeatedly perform the above as the user browses documents in said
26 plurality of documents in a non-directed arrangement.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said representation of content
2 is a thumb nail image of the document.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said thumb nail image further
2 includes highlighting of concepts of interest to the user contained within the document.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said plurality of documents in
2 a non-directed arrangement comprises pages of the World Wide Web.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said plurality of documents
2 includes Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML) documents.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said plurality of documents
2 includes documents produced by a word processing program.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said plurality of links
2 comprises at least one Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

1 24. An apparatus for viewing at least one of a plurality of documents
2 in a non-directed arrangement comprising:

3 a memory,

4 a user input device;

5 a display; and

6 a processor operatively disposed to:

7 fetch into memory documents associated by at least one of a plurality of
8 links to a first current document, to form a first plurality of pre-fetched documents;

9 display said first current document in a first display area on said display;

10 display a representation of content of at least one of said plurality of pre-
11 fetched documents in a second display area on the display in response to a first signal
12 from the user input device;

13 select a second current document from said plurality of pre-fetched
14 documents in response to a second signal from the user input device;

15 display said second current document in said first display area of the
16 display;

17 fetch into memory documents associated by at least one of a plurality of
18 links to said second current document, forming a second plurality of pre-fetched
19 documents;

20 display a representation of content of at least one of said second plurality
21 of pre-fetched documents in said second display area on the display in response to a
22 third signal from the user input device; and

- 23 repeatedly perform the above as the user browses documents in said
- 24 plurality of documents in a non-directed arrangement.